

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, February 7, 2022 - Regular Meeting**

7:00 p.m. – Zoom

**Members present:** Ms. Krepchin, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Barish, Ms. Dion, Mr. Green, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Phillips, Mayor Ballantyne and President McLaughlin.

**Members Absent:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 with a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag of the United States of America. Chair Green asked Superintendent Skipper to call the roll, results of which were as follows: PRESENT – 9 – Dr. Phillips, Ms. Krepchin, Mayor Ballantyne, Mr. Green, Ms. Barish, Ms. Pitone, Dr. Ackman, Ms. Dion and Mr. McLaughlin ABSENT - 0

Chair Green asked interpreters to introduce themselves:

Micaela Yang - Spanish

Elaine Metzker - Portuguese

Angie Surpris - Haitian Creole

**II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Student Representatives Bryan Recinos and Marcia Narh-Botchway were both present and reported the following:

- Report cards were published on Aspen on January 20<sup>th</sup>
- Course selection continues for School Year 2022-2023
- The Senior Class is hosting a Spirit Day
- The Junior Class will begin to meet with College Career Counselors
- The Sophomore class is planning two fundraisers.
- February 11th will have a special schedule for SHS students due to a Social Justice Event in which students will be able to sign up to different workshops the last two blocks; Themed: Amplifying Voices
- Suggestion to extend Gym locker room hours during the day.
- Looking to revise the current Tardy policy
- Principal Buchanan and the Vice Principal of the Highland community visited 10<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to discuss violence and their consequences as well as resources they could access at the high school

Chair Green asked Ms. Narh-Botchway to connect with Superintendent Skipper and Ms. Barish around Policy Issues.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Green read the guidelines of public comment and invited those who signed up to comment to do so in the order called and allocated each person 3 minutes.

**Emily Hickey -64B Marshall St.** Parent of second grader at Argenziano.

Ms. Hickey commented regarding snow removal in the school playgrounds: the city will not clear playgrounds because of the material under the play structures. She noted that we live in New England and snow is not new. They are asking parents to potentially create shoveling brigades. Creating a safe place to play is the responsibility of the city.

Ms. Hickey is requesting that the City, along with the School Admin, publish public snow removal guidelines and develop a plan with clear policies about when indoor recess will happen to be shared with families.

**Ryan Williams -47 Kingston St.** Comment submitted to be included in these minutes and is added as an attachment below due to length.

**Holly Samuelson** – A Concerned Brown School parent commented the following:

“We hope you will support the Brown School PTA's efforts to get the City to rapidly design and construct a safe, level, and well-drained surface during Summer 2022. We have submitted a letter of support, signed by 205 Somerville

residents, to the mayor. Some parents on our PTA committee happen to be in fields related to construction, and we believe that while this is an aggressive timeline, it is feasible if we move quickly. Thank you.” The letter referenced in this comment is attached to these minutes below.

**Ksenia Samokhvalova**- 75 Irving St. in Somerville. (Comment submitted to be included in these minutes.)

My older child is a 3rd grader at the Brown school and my younger child is starting in Kindergarten next year. I’m also a member of the Brown school PTA. My older child has also been attending afterschool at the Brown for the last 4 years.

I’m speaking today in support of the Resolution in Support of Resurfacing the Benjamin Brown play yard that Ms. Barish introduced at the last meeting.

If you have been at the Brown school, you know that the Brown school “playground” - I say playground in quotes is an asphalted patch that the kids use during recess, gym and in afterschool. This so-called playground is cracking - the cracks that are enough to fit a small child’s foot, it’s also the reason we have had more injuries there this year alone than we have kids in the school. The PTA is asking for a small but URGENT investment to make the Brown school’s facilities less abysmal. The time is running out to get this done before the start of the next year.

I’d like to bring to your attention that the city cannot clear the snow around the Brown so that the teachers do not have to park on the playground - a full week after the snowstorm.

Thank you

Ksenia

PS Could the guidelines for the public comments be put into the chat in addition to read - chair Green talks really fast and it is a bit hard to follow.

**Jackie Carrington -36 Newbury St.** Read comments from parents and caregivers of the Brown School Community. Comment submitted to be included in these minutes and is attachments below due to length.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- January 24, 2022

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Dr. Ackman, second by Ms. Dion, to approve the School Committee minutes of January 24, 2022.

Ms. Barish requested that a correction be made where the minutes said the Superintendent stated that the number of newcomers was down from summer, the number has increased.

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

#### **V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

##### **A. District Report**

Superintendent Skipper introduced Assistant Superintendent Mazza and Director of Equity and Excellence Dr. Jessica Boston Davis to give a brief update on equity, pertaining to Black History Month.

Dr. Jessica Boston Davis shared a presentation and spoke to the following

- Administration Developments
  - Ongoing Racial Equity Training
  - Using YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey) data to guide training on LGBTQ+ inclusive schools
- Partnerships
  - BAM (Becoming a Man) Youth Guidance
  - The Leadership Academy
  - Massachusetts Commission On LGBTQ Youth
  - Harvard University
  - Change the Tune
  - AICL
- Future School events
  - Social Justice Day at SHS – Friday February 11, 2022
  - Diversity Recruitment Fair happening in the spring
- Black History Month Celebrations across the District

- WSNS- School wide door decorating projects and daily spotlights
- Capuano- each classroom received a new text ( the ABCs of Black History)
- WHCIS- an afterschool club is organizing a "Black On Broadway" Musical review,
- SHS Sharing of notable facts and contribution each day and guest speaker on February 28

Assistant Superintendent Mazza thanked Dr. Boston Davis and her team for the incredible work they have been doing.

Ms. Dion- Thanked Dr. Boston Davis for all the work her and her team do across the district and for this presentation.

Dr. Ackman- Echoed the appreciation for all the work Dr. Boston Davis does for our district. She is curious about how the district is incorporating conversation in regards to individuals with disabilities. Dr. Boston Davis said that one of the things she is looking to do is to have regular standing meetings with Director Trevisone to align the equity focus with the work happening for students with disability and the Special Education department.

Ms. Krepchin was struck by the what to Wear, Watch and Eat happening at the WSNS for Black History Month and suggested that this list be shared to be included in the Connection newsletter for community members to celebrate Black History month. Dr. Boston Davis will reach out to the equity team at West Somerville School to request and provide the list to the Connection newsletter.

Ms. Pitone also thanked Dr. Boston Davis for this work and said she is looking forward to more visibility of this work. She feels proud and thankful to be a part of the Somerville Community.

Superintendent Skipper praised Dr. Boston Davis for all her efforts and commented that because she was an amazing teacher and Principal, Dr. Boston Davis is able to really connect and create change at the classroom level.

Dr. Phillips asked how the district is seeking feedback from families about efforts regarding equity. She commented that recently information went out to parents regarding Lunar New Year but the content referenced Chinese New Year and parents gave some feedback about that, she wondered how this feedback is being received. Dr. Boston Davis said comments are well received and this is something that it is still in the works; she welcomes any suggestions on best ways to receive parent feedback.

Dr. Ackman commented on the incorporation of black joy for Black History Month and how refreshing this is.

Chair Green echoed his colleague's thanks and said he is very proud to be a part of a District that is committed to teaching truth to everyone.

- **School Year Calendar 2022-2023 (Mr. Mazza)**

Assistant Superintendent Mazza asked the committee for a motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar, reflecting the updates from the previous meeting

**Motion:** There was a motion by Ms. Dion, Second Dr. Ackman, to accept the revised version of the 2022-2023 School Calendar

The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Superintendent Skipper then read her District report

I want to start with a special **thank you to Somerville DPW** and a host of other city partners for their incredible work over the last two weeks. Jill Lathan, DPW Acting Commissioner, and her team have been working tirelessly to continue clearing roads and walkways after an historic blizzard, followed by Friday's winter storm amidst sub-freezing temperatures. We appreciate their partnership and commitment to making sure that our students and staff could safely return to our schools as quickly as possible. Despite Punxsutawney Phil's prediction of 6 more weeks of winter, we are hoping for a steady climb in temperatures in the coming weeks as we head into the February break.

Just a quick reminder that after Friday's weather-related school cancelation, the **last day of school is now Friday, June 17, 2022** and is scheduled to be a full day for all students.

In December, students at the Brown, Kennedy, and Winter Hill schools participated in the national Johnathan Jones **Get Active Coding Challenge**. Students used programmable floor buttons called Unruly Splats, and collected points by stomping on the Splats as they lit up. Our students combined to rack up a total of 300,000 stomps and beat out all other schools in the country. They all recently had an opportunity to hear directly from New England Patriots cornerback and 2-time Super Bowl Champion Johnathan Jones, who logged in virtually for a special celebration that took place at the Brown School. Students from the other two schools also logged in virtually. Congratulations to all the students involved in the Get Active Coding Challenge, and great job!

A reminder that **registration for the 2022-23 school year** is under way. March 18 is the registration deadline for participating in the first batch of school assignments. The enrollment office will send out the first batch of school assignment letters for Pre-K and Kindergarten the week of April 19. Visit our enrollment office website ([www.somerville.k12.ma.us/enrollment](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/enrollment)) for more information. Please call the enrollment office if you have questions.

The impact of our **partners and volunteers** cannot be overstated. Every year, I am humbled by the incredible support that we get from people and organizations in and around our community, who are as committed as we are to ensuring that our students are healthy and ready to access their learning. Cradles to Crayons is one of those amazing, long-standing partners. This winter, Cradles to Crayons has worked with the SFLC and 2 amazing volunteers to provide more than 260 emergency winter clothing packages to SPS students and their younger siblings. We are so grateful for their continued and steadfast support of our students and families. Thank you!

**February break** is quickly approaching. All schools will be closed February 21<sup>st</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>. The February break includes the President's Day holiday. District offices will be closed Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, but will be open the remainder of the week.

## **VI. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

- A. Special Policing Subcommittee:** January 19, 2022 (Chair Green)
- B. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee:** January 24, 2022 (Dr. Phillips)
- C. Finance and facilities committee of the whole:** January 26, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)

All subcommittee reports were tabled until next meeting.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Resolution in support of Resurfacing the Benjamin G. Brown School Play Yard** (Ms. Barish)

Ms. Barish introduce the resolution and recommended a friendly amendment to the last Whereas, which would now read "Therefore be it resolved that the Somerville School Committee requests that the City Council and Mayor Ballantyne provide the financial and administrative support to ensure that the Benjamin G. Brown School play yard will be remediated beginning in June 2022 with the intention of improving the safety of the playground, including leveling where possible in time for the start of the 2022-2023 academic year".

Dr. Ackman wondered why they are advocating for this and not for the original plan. Ms. Barish said the issue is time, what is being suggested is a simpler design.

Chair Green urged the administration to come up with a plan and a timeline.

Mayor Ballantyne spoke to context and said that while she was on City Council there was talk about who would be responsible for school playground it was decided that the city would be. It is her understanding that there has been an issue at the Brown school for a while. The plan was to upgrade the Brown, the Kennedy then the West. Upgrades have already been made to the two other schools. She thanked parents who have reached out to her and assured everyone that conversations are in the works for potential work this coming summer.

MOTION: There was a motion by Ms. Barish, second by Ms. Pitone to approve the Resolution in Support of Resurfacing the Benjamin G. Brown School Play Yard.

The motion was approved with 8-Yes votes and one present vote from Mayor Ballantyne.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Donations** (Recommended action: approval)

The superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of the following donations

Donation	Donor	City, State	Value	Programs Donated to
Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar and Guitar Amplifier	David Manzer	Everett, MA	\$400	SHS Guitar Program

**MOTION:** There was a motion by Ms. Pitone, seconded by Dr. Ackman, to accept the donation listed above. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Pitone wanted to flag the idea of an open campus for the Senior Class, which was introduced at the Rules Subcommittee meeting this evening.

Superintendent Skipper said that they are currently working on a policy and hope to introduce it to the body next month for potential implementation after April break. Other districts are already doing this.

**X. CONDOLENCES**

Superintendent Skipper and the Somerville School committee extends its deepest condolences to the families of:

**Steven Henry Luboff**, former English Teacher at Somerville High School; **John Howe**, Husband of Sheila Howe, retired Secretary of Somerville High School and father of Erin McGovern, 3rd Grade Teacher at Albert F. Argenziano School and Kristen Kennedy, Redirect Teacher at John F. Kennedy School; and **Herbert F. Sears**, Father of Rosemary Sears, K-8 Band Teacher

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned 8:35 p.m.

**Related documents:**

Agenda

SPS Equity Update [https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/SPS%20Equity%20Update%20-%20School%20Committee%202022\\_7\\_2022.pdf](https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/SPS%20Equity%20Update%20-%20School%20Committee%202022_7_2022.pdf)

School Year Calendar 2022-2023

Public Comments Submitted to be included in these minutes

Brown School Petition Letter

Submitted by: E. Garcia

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 7, 2022  
ZOOM WEBINAR– 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the School Committee will be conducted via remote participation.

We will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels.

**Copy & paste the following link into your internet browser to preregister or on the date and time of this meeting to view it live:** [https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UrehXHpaTfut-o3dQKwcpw](https://k12somerville.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UrehXHpaTfut-o3dQKwcpw)

**Webinar ID:** 840 0751 5994

**Password:** SPSSC21

**Somerville Public Schools - School Committee Goals 2019 - 2022**

Through the following long-range goals, we commit to addressing deep-rooted systemic barriers that have prevented us from achieving our district vision of equity and excellence and ensuring that all students, regardless of race or ethnicity, have the supports and resources they need to achieve educational success in our district now and in the future. By 2022, we will ...:

...increase the percentage of support staff of color by 6 percentage points, teachers and counselors of color by 5 percentage points, and administrators of color by 4 percentage points through evaluating and strengthening all elements of our human capital system.

... 1) conduct a district enrollment study to understand the prospective future population of the district and 2) craft a vision for school assignment and programming aligned with the district's equity policy.

... design, evaluate, and partially or fully implement student-based budgeting to ensure that every student has equitable access to rich learning opportunities that help them thrive.

... design a robust system of aligned developmental academic and social-emotional benchmarks which will be used to inform practices, policies, and resource allocation.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Call to order with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**II. REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- January 24, 2022

**V. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. District Report**

- School Year Calendar 2022 – 2023 (Mr. Mazza)

**VI. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**A. Special Policing Subcommittee: January 19, 2022 (Chair Green)**

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Special Policing Subcommittee of January 19, 2022.

**B. Educational Programs and Instruction Subcommittee: January 24, 2022 (Dr. Phillips)**

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Educational Programs and Instruction of January 24, 2022.

**C. Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole: January 26, 2022 (Ms. Krepchin)**

MOTION: To accept the report of the School Committee Meeting for Finance and Facilities of the Whole of January 26, 2022.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution in Support of Resurfacing the Benjamin G. Brown School Play Yard** (Ms. Barish)

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Donations** (Recommended action: approval)

The Superintendent recommends the acceptance, with gratitude, of the following donations:

<b>Donation</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Programs Donated to</b>
Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar and Guitar Amplifier	David Manzer	Everett, MA	\$400	SHS Guitar Program

**A.**

**IX. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**X. CONDOLENCES**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The items listed are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



## 2022-2023 School Calendar

AUGUST '22				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	(31)		

SEPTEMBER '22				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER '22				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

NOVEMBER '22				
M	T	W	TH	F
31	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	(23)	24	25
28	29	30		

DECEMBER '22				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY '23				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

For more information or for any questions, please contact Katherine Santiago - [ksantiago@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:ksantiago@k12.somerville.ma.us)

FEBRUARY '23				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28			

MARCH '23				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

APRIL '23				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MAY '23				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

JUNE '23				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

### Quarters

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 8/31 - 11/4 (45 days)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 11/7 - 1/23 (45 days)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1/24 - 4/3 (45 days)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 4/4 - 6/14 (45 days)

Half-Day Wednesdays

Dismissal @ 11:30 (PK) Noon (K-8)

Sept. 14	Feb. 15
Oct. 5, 26	Mar. 8, 29
Nov. 16	Apr. 12
Dec. 7	May 10
Jan. 11, 25	Jun. 7

### Important Dates

#### August - 1 day

- 29 - 1<sup>st</sup> day for Staff Professional Development
- 30 - Staff Professional Development
- 31 - 1<sup>st</sup> day for students 1 - 12 (1/2 day)

#### September - 20 days

- 2 - No School
- 5 - No School - Labor Day
- 6 - 1<sup>st</sup> day for Kindergarten and Pre-K students
- 26-27 - Rosh Hashanah\*

#### October - 20 days

- 5 - Yom Kippur\*
- 10 - No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 24 - Diwali

#### November - 18 days

- 8 - No School - Election Day, Prof. Devel.
- 11 - No School - Veterans Day
- 23 - Begin Thanksgiving Recess at noon

#### December - 16 days

- 19-26 - Hanukkah\*
- 22 - Begin winter recess at close of school (Includes Christmas - 12/25 and Kwanzaa - 12/26)

#### January - 21 days

- 1 - No School - New Year's day
- 2 - Classes resume
- 6 - Three Kings Day/ Dia De Los Reyes
- 16 - No School - Martin Luther King Day

#### February - 15 days

- 20-24 - February Vacation (Includes Presidents' Day)

#### March - 23 days

- 8 - Holi
- 3/23-4/21 - Ramadan\*
- 3/23 - 4/21 - Ramadan\*
- 6-13 - Passover\*
- 7 - Good Friday
- 9 - Easter
- 17-21 - April Vacation (Includes Patriots Day)
- 22 - Eid al-Fitr\*

#### May - 22 days

- 29 - No School - Memorial Day

#### June - 10 days

- 2 - Class Day (Tentative)
- 5 - Graduation Day (Tentative)
- 14 - Last day of school (180 days)
- 19 - Juneteenth Independence Day
- 21 - 185<sup>th</sup> day

Prof. Dev. for teaching staff only

○ Half-Day ALL students PK-12

☆ Special Dates for Seniors

#### Major Religious & Cultural Holidays

Dates underlined above represent the district's major religious and cultural holidays. All Jewish and Islamic holidays starred (\*) above begin at sundown the previous day. Somerville Public Schools staff members will do their best to refrain from scheduling one-time events, field trips, athletic competitions, auditions, tests, quizzes for these days. Long-term assignments will not be due on the day of or the day after one of these holidays.



## **Ryan Williams- Comments to School Committee – February 7, 2022**

Good evening School Committee members,

My name is Ryan Williams. I am a Somerville resident of 47 Kingston St, president of the Brown School PTA, and parent to two daughters at the Brown.

With the number of injuries requiring medical attention this year approaching 300, the urgency of the situation is obvious. For far too long, the City has demonstrated that the Brown School facilities are simply not a priority. Not for accessibility, not for safety. Since the start of the pandemic, there has been a 27% reduction in enrollment at the Brown – twenty-seven. Why is nobody concerned about that? If you're not alarmed by that, why not?

This attrition is due in no small part to the calculated and frankly cynical decision to allow the facilities to deteriorate and decay, both the building and the schoolyard. The City continues to – study the problem – but this continued indecision is in fact a decision. It is a tacit endorsement of the inequitable status quo. A decade after the City commissioned an ADA study, the building remains inaccessible. Five years after the City pledged to fully renovate the schoolyard, it remains – in the City's own words to the CPA – quote "cracked and patched asphalt, devoid of features." Devoid. Should that word ever be used to describe a schoolyard?

Now, perhaps the City has a secret plan to address the situation at the Brown. But there has been no engagement of the stakeholders – not the PTA, parents, or students, not the staff, as far as I'm aware not the School Committee or City Council, not even the principal of the Brown has been told what they plan to do. This past summer, we were promised in September or October an update meeting on the engineering study. As of today, in February, that meeting still has not happened.

We've entered into the record a petition in support of this project signed by 205 Somerville residents in just the past week or two. It was coordinated by Holly Samuelson a Brown School parent, registered architect, and professor. We have an incredible group of parents with expertise who want to help. Some of these signatures are from Brown School parents whose children have graduated college waiting for action.

It has to be noted that the Brown School is the only school in the district that is overwhelmingly attended by girls. In fact, 61% of our students are girls. No other school in SPS is above 49%. What message are we sending our daughters when we continue to deny them a safe place to play.

And play is what this is really all about. Here we are ten days after the snowstorm and the schoolyard is still being used as a parking lot. Our students are not allowed to play with balls – at recess. That tells you everything about our City's priorities. Our Brown School children are being denied one of the most fundamental aspects of childhood – play.

So I urge you to approve the resolution before this body. But we can't stop with that. We need you to lobby the administration to take action now so that this happens in 2022. We need to make the playground safe. Beyond that, we need to continue to demand that the City develop a long-term plan to address the lack of accessibility and the need for a renovation. We need to make all of our school facilities a priority.

In closing, my 5th grader will graduate the Brown this year. For six years we've been told to just wait another year. Childhood is fleeting; it's too late for her. Please make sure that my 2nd grade daughter doesn't have the same experience. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Williams  
47 Kingston St  
President, Brown School PTA

## **Jackie Carrington -36 Newbury St**

Brown School Parent/Caregiver Comments in Support of #brownschoolbandaid

"We have lived in this neighborhood - a block away from the Brown - for over a decade and well before becoming parents. Our taxes have doubled in that time. The lack of updates to the Brown school lot - the only open space in our neighborhood - is very disappointing, especially now that we have 2 kids there that are in desperate need of a safe space to play."

"My son Ethan suffered a fractured arm by a simple trip in the school yard, heading out to P.E. He was not running or doing anything athletic, in fact he was walking in the class line, and falling onto the hard top resulted in a fracture which was casted for 6 weeks. Please update this embarrassing surface with something that can forgive routine falls."  
"Shima (5th grade) says that it's important to be able to play outside without worrying that someone will get hurt."

"When I received the email about the petition, I had no idea so many injuries happened on the blacktop. We even go there on the weekends and I am constantly reminding my son to steer clear of the cracks, bumps and holes so he won't fall. The surface needs to be fixed or replaced for the safety of our children. I don't know about the future of the Brown school but I don't want my child (Grade 1) injured while innocently playing when it could be avoided with a safer surface."

"My 2nd grader has repeatedly come home with skinned knees and torn pants in the short time that she has physically attended the Brown School. Let's solve this problem the same way we've solved it in every other Somerville playground and resurface the blacktop this summer."

"I wanted to write to express our strong support for the Brown School Bandaid project. Our son Callan (1st grade) broke his wrist this past Fall on the blacktop during outdoor PE class. He actually injured his wrist 2 weeks in a row in PE class (it wasn't until after the second time that we had him x-rayed), both times during activities that involved running on the blacktop and changing directions quickly when he lost his balance. If the surface he had fallen on had been a bit softer and more forgiving, we believe that he would have been able to avoid suffering a fracture. We are hopeful that this project will be approved by the School Committee to prevent further injuries like the one Callan and some of his classmates have had."

"It is our impression that this isn't urgent or important to the city. Seeing the playground used as a parking lot today, Monday Feb. 7th, 10 days after the big storm is another reminder of that classification. Maybe instead of #brownschoolbandaid the hashtag should read #brownschoolkidsbeforecars" ?

"My kindergartener has scabbed and scarred her knee multiple times on the blacktop like most every kid at the Brown. In addition, my 3 year old often scooters there on weekends with her sister. We have broken 1 scooter that was a result of riding over a giant gash in the blacktop, resulting in a dive across the blacktop with asphalt rocks smashed into hands. Aside from the safety issue, we have ripped holes in almost every pair of pants we own that get worn to the schoolyard."

25th January 2022

Dear Mayor Ballantyne,

We are writing to request your support in quickly addressing the unsafe and inequitable conditions of the Brown School Blacktop. There have been 232 documented injuries for 194 students, during school hours only, so far this school year (roughly four months). These have included three broken bones and one head injury requiring an ambulance.

We hope you will support the Brown School PTA's efforts to get the City to rapidly design and construct a safe, level, and well drained surface during the Summer 2022 window. A safer playground will be a resource for not only the Brown School children and the AfterSchool program, but also the community as we have seen from the very high utilization at the renovated playgrounds at the six other elementary schools and the Capuano Early Childhood Center in Somerville.

Please contact [brownschoolpta@googlegroups.com](mailto:brownschoolpta@googlegroups.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Brown School PTA Officers

Jackie Carrington (Ted, 2nd Grade)

Ksenia Samokhvalova (Leif, 3rd Grade)

Lynda Barros-Mitova (Katerina, Kindergarten),

Molly Doble ( Lucy, 3rd Grade; Fiona 2nd Grade; Anna Kindergarten)

Rahul Dave (Anamika, Kindergarten),

and Ryan Williams (Elliot, 5th Grade; Quinn, 2nd Grade)

Co-signed

April Kuehnhoff	24 Gibbens St., Apt. 2
Mary Hale	29 Partridge Avenue
Jackie Carrington	36 Newbury Street
Molly Doble	187 Willow Ave
Chad Laurent	48 Lexington Ave
Jardayna Laurent	48 Lexington Ave
Jami Therrien	103 Highland Road
Ben Wells	103 Highland Road

Nabia Meghelli	7 Curtis St
Sean Becker	120 Powder House Blvd
Melisa Lai-Becker	120 Powder House Blvd
Jena Nardella	15 Warwick Street
Rebecca Barbosa	42 Alpine Street
Momchil Barros-Mitov	35 Prichard Ave
Cindy Lee	71 Bay State Ave
Richard Williams	71 Bay State Ave
Carrie Endries	54 Warwick St
Kate Leverence	168 Willow Ave
Brandon Roy	29 Partridge Ave
Ryan Williams	47 Kingston St
Holly Samuelson	26 Partridge Ave
Derek Samuelson	26 Partridge Ave
Ryan Williams	47 Kingston St
Moran Cabili	18 Greene street
Amitay Kalmar	18 Greene street
Anna Tabakova Bailey	24 powder house terrace,apt 2,Somerville ,ma 02144
Andrea Gillespie Amin	17 Appleton Street
Rims Mycynek	233 Willow Ave.
Steven Mycynek	233 Willow Ave, Unit 1
Roman Zadov	64 Grove st, Somerville
Carrie Endries	54 Warwick St
Meghan Kearney	55 Pearson Ave
Lisa Yamada	227 Willow Ave.
Chris Desjardins	32 Princeton St
Lucy McGowan	54 Chandler St.
Elisa Hurley	32 Princeton Street
Roxana Garcia Caro	69 Lowden Ave
Jessica Zeidman	103 Glenwood Road, Somerville, MA
Armando Caro	69 Lowden Ave
Kathleen Quirk	65 Cherry Street
Michelle Webb	97 Conwell Ave Somerville, MA 02144
Lily Song	60 Clyde Street
Jessica Kellogg	8 Charnwood Rd. #1
Brad Chapman	35 Partridge Ave Somerville MA 02145
Mariel Lacina	10 Partridge Ave
Brandon Roy	29 Partridge Ave
Roxane Scrima	33 Partridge Ave
Amy Roschelle	11 Cottage Avenue
Rick Leverence	168 Willow Ave
Melissa Gibbs	11 Pearl Street Place
Kevin Love	3 Thurston Street, Somerville, MA 02145
Kathryn M Williams	47 Kingston Street

Noemi Hemenway	13 Lincoln street
Gene Yau	9 Sherman Ct, Somerville, MA 02145
Megan Lang	26 Leonard Street
Pablo PÃ©rez Ramos	45 Belmont Street, Somerville MA 02143
Sarah Kerrigan	95 Moreland Street
Rachel Rixon	42 Simpson ave
Brenna Marable	34B Murdock Street
Maya Bustan	36 Laurel St
Michael Tsabar	36 Laurel st unit 1
MELISSA GILLESPIE	270 CEDAR STREET UNIT 1 SOMERVILLE MA 02145
Mark Tompkins	336 Highland Ave., Unit 2
Marta Guerra Pastrian	45 Belmont St, unit 1
Hla Hla Win	354 Broadway, #3 Somerville MA 02145
Yan Min Aung	354 Broadway, #3
Jess Petersen	45 Wallace St
Riti Doshi	15 Boston Ave, Unit 1, Somerville, MA 02144
Nabia Meghelli	7 Curtis St
Cindy Lee	71 Bay State Ave
Richard Williams	71 Bay State Ave
Jami Therrien	103 Highland Road
Silvana Dinka	375 Canal st Unit 610 Somerville MA 02145
Dan Doble	187 Willow Ave
Daisy Rodriguez	445 Artisan Way
Genevieve S Walsh	110 Josephine Ave, #2
betsy bogard	18 ossipee road
Jonathan Liu	47 Partridge Ave, Somerville
Macy Coffey	75 Lowden Avenue
Stephanie Galaitsi	44 Morrison Ave
Keiko Y Petrosky	73 Winslow Ave
Hailey Broderick	27 Murdock St
Ross daly	27 Murdock st
Anna Warrock	29 Josephine Ave.
Robert Smyth	29 Josephine Ave.
Cara Rodriguez	335 Highland Ave
Apoorva Joshi	15 Boston Ave, 1
Henry Huang (Father of Audrey and Haley)	97 Conwell Avenue
Mark Tompkins	336 Highland Ave, Unit 2
Lynda Barros-Mitova	35 Prichard Ave
Momchil Barros-Mitov	35 Prichard Ave
Judith Barros	35 Prichard Ave
Brandon Wilson Evitt	34 Josephine Ave
Andres Sevtsuk	60 Clyde St, Somerville
Amy Piegrass	5 Clifton st



Rebecca Barbosa	42 Alpine St
Rana McLaughlin	96 Rogers Ave #2
Elisabeth MacDonnell	80 Bay State Ave #1
David McClure	58 Oxford St. Apt 2, Somerville MA
Jeremy Gillespie	270 Cedar St I work at the Brown and would love to see the playground fixed!
Sharyn von Trapp	278 Cedar St. Somerville
Carina Grenham	25 Cambria Street, Somerville, MA, 02143
Alexander (Sasha) Wait Zaranek	36 Ash Avenue, Somerville, MA
Cody McInnis	24 Gibbens St
Ward Vandewege	75 Irving St
Erik Nygren	58 Chandler St
Joan kelley	49 LOWDEN AVENUE, 1
DANIELA REILLY	14 Irving Street
Bill Fried	122 Heath street #1
Hari K Maharjan	96 Rogers Ave. #2
Brendan McLaughlin	29 CLYDE ST, APT 2
Dana Torpey	5 Clifton Street
Rick Newman	65 Lexington ave
Sanket choksey	7 Taylor Street Apt 1
Lula	9 Chandler St.
Thalia Tringo	48 Lexington Ave
Chad Laurent	18 Greene street
Amitay Kalmar	43 Irving St
Abigail Shafroth	26 Irving St.
James Olesen	138 ten hills road
Melissa Sullivan	13 Lincoln street
Noemi Hemenway	242 cedar st somerville ma
Lindsay Figueiredo	101 WALLACE ST
Kelly Williamson	72 Wallace Street
Jean Player	898 Broadway
Amanda Siudw	34 Fremont
Nobantu Mabuza-Frantzis	26 Nashua Street
Jessica Herrick	898 Broadway
Peter Siuda	20 Josephine Ave
Sara Buhrlage	95 Pearson Avenue
Chantal A Krcmar	34B Murdock Street
Rodney Marable	36 Laurel st apt 1
Michael Tsabar	15 Chandler Street, 02144
Diane Bulpett	27 Whitman St.
Katie Carlson	47 Partridge Ave Somerville, MA 02145
Tina Lu	29 Warwick street
April dovholuk	83 Irving Street, Somerville MA
Louisa S Bissett	

Ethan Bissett	83 Irving Street
Rahul Dave	95 Pearson Ave #2
Momchil Barros-Mitov	35 Prichard Ave, Somerville, MA 02144
Julie Lamriben	48 Rogers avenue, Somerville
Kathryn M Williams	47 Kingston Street
Hailey Broderick	27 Murdock Street
Elisabeth MacDonnell	80 Bay State Ave
Subash Rijal	85 central street Apt 9, Somerville
Madeline Sorenson	5 Irving St, Somerville
Nihal Celik	25 Clyde St Apt 3
Maren Chiu	17 Kidder Ave Somerville MA 02144
Amanda Rychel	29 Lowden Ave
Donna Clark	13 Campbell Park, Somerville
Taryn LaFlamme	206 Lowell St, Somerville
Jonathan Kilpatrick	21 Browning Rd
Luisa Chiesa	62 Farragut ave, Somerville
Kathy McCarthy	78 Bay State Ave #1, Somerville MA
Ann Grenawalt	39 Irving Street
Chessie Shaw	61 Rogers Ave
Sara Cable	27 William street
Patricia Swarms	100 Glenwood Road
Jennifer Godfrey	52 Oxford St
Rishi Gokhale	30 Bromfield Road
Meghan Bo	28 Everett ave Somerville 02145
Noa Hughes	7 Corinthian rd Somerville
Thomas Stuart	79 Beacon St., #1
Kevin Thomas Carlson	27 Whitman Street
Julia Wise	69 Morrison Ave
Susan Lee	37 Stone Ave
Gene Yau	9 Sherman Ct, somerville, ma 02145
Nataly Moran Cabili	18 Greene St
Taslim Urnek	754 Broadway
Mary Hutchinson	336 Highland Ave, Unit 2 Somerville, MA 02144
Mary Hutchinson	336 Highland Ave, Unit 2 Somerville MA 02144
Lampros Tsontzos	98 Holland St
Julia Toof	40 Pennsylvania Ave
Ginger Rakestraw	65 Hall Ave
Erin Donohue	32 Appleton St, Somerville
Ariel Horowitz	66 Morrison Ave
Padam Badu	Sydney st
Tulasi Badu	44 Sydney st
Erin Price	96 Belmont St. Somerville
Leah Bloom	100 BELMONT ST # 3
Donna c	Donna Carroll

Jessica Kellogg	8 Charnwood Rd. #1 Somerville, MA 02144
Claude Hemmerich	12 Morrison Ave #2
Jillian Stuart	79 Beacon St
Janelle Ventura	12 Derby Street
Paul Morgan	54 Warwick St
Elizabeth Stevens	175 Summer St
Caroline Rosas	60 Prichard Ave
Hathalee Higgs	52 Adams St, #3, Somerville
Lisa Philpotts	103 Concord Ave
Anna Martin	79 Irving at #1
Julie Skinner Manegold	18 Rogers Ave
Patrycja Missiuro	17 Vinal Ave, Somerville
Apoorva Joshi	15 Boston Ave, 1
Hanna Bao	90 Morrison Ave # 1
Paula Magnelli	14 Webster St
Pablo PÃ©rez-Ramos	45 Belmont st Somerville MA 02143
Edward G Carrington	36 NEWBURY ST
Karen Gardner	45 Oxford Street, Somerville 02143
Shariann Lewitt	110 Porter St
Kendra Kavaja	1 Partridge Ave #2, Somerville
Kelsey Coffin	25 Partridge Ave
Russell Heines	30 Charnwood Road
Cara m Rodriguez	335 Highland Ave, Somerville MA